

PATENT A

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

So KAWAMURA et al.

Group Art Unit: 3627

Serial No.: 09/982,991

Examiner: James S. McClellan

Filed: October 22, 2001

For: METHOD FOR MANAGING PHYSICAL DISTRIBUTION

WITH RETURNABLE CONTAINERS

## **AMENDMENT**

JAN 0 3 2004 CROUP 3300

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed October 8, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows: